

to the appointment of a select committee of the House of Commons to make an inquiry. They reported that credit had suffered by the setting up of persons as bankers without sufficient capital, and recommended that bankers be required to register the real and personal estate which they proposed to hold as security for the payment of their liabilities, that the names of the issuing bankers be stated on banknotes, that bankers should not be permitted to trade as merchants, and that it should be made a felony without benefit of clergy for cashiers or clerks to embezzle money in excess of *j£\$o*. The committee also recommended the cancellation of notes at the time of payment. These recommendations, except that regarding the registration of security, were embodied into law in 1755 (29 George II., c. 16). This act did not entirely revive credit and four important banking failures took place in 1758 and in 1760. The first was that of Clements, Malone, and Gore, a firm established on July 3, 1758, which closed its doors on November 1st, of the same year. This firm issued deposit notes payable to bearer on seven days' notice with interest at the rate of ten pence per week for every ^{^"100} (two and one-sixth per cent, per annum). The deposits obtained were larger than were expected and were invested largely in land, but the depositors soon began to demand repayment of their notes and as cash could not be obtained the firm was obliged to suspend.¹

Three of the six large banking firms in Dublin suspended in 1760 and the others refused to discount bills and practically suspended business. Among the firms which remained solvent was that of Messrs. I^{^a} Touche and Co., which began business in 1725 and survived as a banking house until its fusion with the Munster Bank in 1878. The financial condition of the country and the state of credit were in such a situation that a meeting of the merchants of Dublin was held in April, 1760, which made an appeal to Parliament for relief. A committee of inquiry was named by the House which reported on April 23, 1760, that the quantity of paper in circulation was insufficient to carry on trade and manufac-

¹ Dillon, 23.